sources for meeting the energy needs of the people in the country, particularly in rural areas. In most cases, these sources have the potential to meet practically all the energy needs of communities in rural areas through the use of suitable technologies. Already around 6.5 lakhs family size biogas units, nearly 22 lakhs improved chulhas, more than 1000 solar thermal systems, 3000 solar photovoltaic street lights and 3.3 MW wind electric power etc. have been installed. Several thousand villages have been made "smokeless" and several hundred villages provided lighting, television etc. from solar energy.

(b) Evaluation done so far indicate that on an average across the country the percentage success is more than 80 per cent; the actual figure varies from area to area. It is estimated that on account of the improved chulhas an equivalent of around 14 lakhs tonnes of fuelwood valued at about Rs. 60 crores is being saved per annum.

(c) and (d) In India, biogas plants are not lagging behind in designs as compared to China; in fact, Indian design including several designs developed rcently under the R&D programmes of the Department on Non-Conventional Energy Sources are considered better in certain respects. So far as numbers are concerned, 7 million biogas plants were reported to have been built in China in the Seventies under a fully funded crash programme. However recent reports indicate that almost half of these plants are now non-functional. In India, the National Project on Biogas Development was started only in 1982. Hence the number of plants are less than in China but the Indian programme has made marked progress during the last two years when a package of measures including technological improvement, training programmes, post installation servicing repaid and maintenance monitoring and evaluation etc. were introduced by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. In these two years, the national achievements have been well in excess of the targets and the percentage of functionality is also high. Over 6.5 lakh biogas plants have been set up so far. The annual rate of installation can be further accelerated if larger financial allocations could be made available for the programme.

Fuel from waste

1913. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 590 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th November, 1986 and state:

(a) whether fuel is being obtained from waste in cities in many advanced countries in the world;

(b) how does our performance compare with advanced countries such as USA and UK vis-a-vis convertible waste available; and

(c) whether in order to save fast disappearing forests whether conversion of waste into fuel projects will be speeded up?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir. Solid Waste of cities is incinerated for disposal in some advanced countries and the heat liberated is used for space heating and occassionally for power generation. Lately extraction of fuel gas from landfill sites is being done in some European countries.

(b) The calorific value of our municipal waste is much lesser compared to advanced countries because much of combustible material from the waste of our cities is picked up for recycling before waste reaches the dumping grounds.

(c) This would depend on the availability of funds. This first pilot plant for incineration of a part of the municipal solid waste is under installation at Timarpur, Delhi and is expected to be commissioned by March

1987. Depending on the success of this plant utilisation of waste in other cities should be taken up for conversion into energy. Increasing use of landfill fuel gas and sewage gas is also proposed to substitute convendional fuels.

Number of working coal mines in Orissa

1914. SHRI SUBHAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of working coal mines in Orissa as on 31st October, 1986;

(b) what is the present coal deposit, in these mines ;

(c) what type of coal is available in these mines; and

(d) what quantity is being taken from these mines annually?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a), (c) and (d) There are 16 working coal mines in the State of Orissa. In 1984-85, 5.44 million tonnes and in 1985-86, 6.04 m.t. of coal was produce from these mines. All these mines produce only non-coking coal.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Amount due from Drug Companies

1915. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item which appeared in Economic Times of 7th November, 1986 captioned "Drug Firms Jittery".

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government has issued final notice to two drug companies for immediate payment due to over-charging from the consumers;

(c) if so, what are the names of those two companies alongwith the amount worked out in each case;

(d) by when the final amount in respect of other drug companies is likely to be worked out; and

(e) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to open a separate new cell for collection of the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The amounts due into the Drugs Prices Equalisation Account have been finalised against several companies and notices have been issued asking them to deposit the amount. Names of the companies and details of the amount due in respect of bulk drugs in question are given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Name of the Bulk Drug	Amount due Rs. lakhs
1	Pulford-India Ltd.	Gentamycin	194·62
2	Lupin Labs.	Rifampicin	215·89
3	Biochem Pharma Industries	Gentamycin	33·88
4	Do.	Rifampicin	34·28
5	Ethico Drugs & Chemicals Mfg. Co.	Rifampicin	141 00
6	Ranbaxy Labs.	Rifampicin	36 23
7	Lyka Labs.	Gentamycin	17·47